

















**FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY™**  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH  
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

# Wyoming

This outline describes major sources of information about families from Wyoming. As you read this outline, study the *United States Research Outline*, (30972) which will help you understand terminology and the contents and uses of genealogical records.

## RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY™

The Family History Library has few of the records listed in this outline. The major holdings include histories, biographies, census records, and land records.

Some of the sources described in this outline list the Family History Library's book, microfilm, and microfiche numbers. These are preceded by *FHL*, the abbreviation for *Family History Library*. These numbers may be used to locate materials in the library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers™.

## FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG™

The library's records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog™ found at the library and at each Family History Center™. To find a record, look in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog for:

- The *place* where your ancestor lived, such as:

**UNITED STATES - CENSUS**  
**WYOMING - HISTORY**  
**WYOMING, LARAMIE - LAND AND PROPERTY**  
**WYOMING, LARAMIE, CHEYENNE -**  
**CEMETERIES**

- The *record type* you want to search, such as:

**UNITED STATES - CENSUS**  
**WYOMING - HISTORY**  
**WYOMING, LARAMIE - LAND AND PROPERTY**  
**WYOMING, LARAMIE, CHEYENNE -**  
**CEMETERIES**

The section headings in this outline match the names of record types used in the Family History Library Catalog.

## ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

The archives, libraries, and societies listed below have major collections or services helpful to genealogical researchers.

- Department of Commerce  
Division of Cultural Resources  
Telephone: 307-777-7016  
Fax: 307-777-7044  
*1997 Address:*  
6101 Yellowstone Rd. LL  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
*1998 Address:*  
Barrett Building  
2301 Central  
Cheyenne, WY 82002
- National Archives—Rocky Mountain Region  
(Denver)  
Denver Federal Center Building 48  
Denver, CO 80225  
Telephone: 303-236-0817  
Fax: 303-236-9354
- Wyoming State Library  
Supreme Court and Library Building  
2301 Capitol Ave.  
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0006  
Telephone: 307-777-7281  
Fax: 307-777-6289
- Laramie County Library  
Cheyenne Genealogical Society  
2800 Central Avenue  
Cheyenne, WY 82001  
Telephone: 307-634-3561  
Fax: 307-634-2082
- University of Wyoming Library  
P.O. Box 3334  
University Station  
Laramie, WY 82071-3334  
Telephone: 307-766-3279  
Fax: 307-766-3062

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To learn more about the history and record-keeping systems of Wyoming counties, use the six inventories of the county archives published by the Historical Records Survey around 1940. Copies of these inventories are available at the Family History Library.

## Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards

Computers with modems can be useful tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, computer networks themselves serve as a library. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers:

- Locate other researchers
- Post queries
- Send and receive e-mail
- Search large databases
- Search computer libraries
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions

You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from Wyoming in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost.

Addresses on the Internet change frequently. As of April 1997, the following sites are important gateways linking you to many more network and bulletin board sites:

- USGenWeb  
<http://www.usgenweb.com/>  
A cooperative effort by many volunteers to list genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet for each county, state, and country.
- Roots-L  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa/>  
A useful list of sites and resources. Includes a large, regularly-updated research coordination list.

For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research, see the *United States Research Outline* (30972), 2nd ed., "Archives and Libraries" section.

## FamilySearch®

The Family History Library and some Family History Centers have computers with FamilySearch®. FamilySearch is a collection of computer files containing several million names. FamilySearch is a good place to begin your research. Some of the records come from compiled sources; some have been automated from original sources.

Computers with FamilySearch do *not* have access to computer on-line services, networks, or bulletin boards. However, those services are available at many public libraries, college libraries, and private locations.

## BIBLE RECORDS

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The Daughters of the American Revolution have compiled some Bible records from Wyoming. These are available on microfilm at the Family History Library (FHL film 848633). They are indexed by E. Kay Kirkham, *An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States*, Vol. 2 (Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1984; FHL book 973 D22kk v.2; fiche 6089184).

## BIOGRAPHY

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The best collection of published biographies in Wyoming is at the Wyoming State Archives. The American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming also collects biographical works.

The Family History Library has a good collection of biographical materials on subjects such as women, cowboys, and prominent pioneers. Some examples of helpful biographical collections are:

- Bartlett, Ichabod S. *History of Wyoming*. 3 vols. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1918. (FHL book 978.7 H2b; film 1000826 items 2-4.) Volumes 2-3 are biographical.
- Beach, Cora May Brown. *Women of Wyoming*. 2 vols. Casper, Wyo.: S. E. Boyer, 1927. (FHL book 978.7 D3b.)
- Beard, Frances B. *Wyoming from Territorial Days to the Present*. 3 vols. Chicago: American Historical Society, 1933. (FHL book 978.7 H2be; film 1000827.) Volumes 2-3 are biographical.
- Progressive Men of the State of Wyoming*. Chicago: A. W. Bowen, 1903. (FHL film 1000827 item 4.)

## CEMETERIES

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The Family History Library has some cemetery and sexton records for Cheyenne. Tombstone inscriptions may have been published in periodicals (see the "Periodicals" section of this outline). Other suggestions for locating cemetery records are found in the *United States Research Outline*.

## CENSUS

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### Federal

Most of the federal census records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more detailed information about the federal records.

The Family History Library has copies of the 1870 and 1880 federal census reports for Wyoming



Territory. For Uintah County in 1850 and 1860, see the census reports for Salt Lake County, Utah. For eastern Wyoming in 1860, see "unorganized land" in the Nebraska census reports.

The library has the U.S. federal censuses for the state of Wyoming from 1900 to 1920. The 1890 census has been destroyed. The 1890 veterans schedule and index are available at the Family History Library and at the National Archives.

There are indexes to the 1850 to 1880 censuses in book and microfiche format. A soundex (phonetic) index is also available on microfilm for part of the 1880 and all of the 1900 and 1920 censuses.

Mortality schedules (lists of deaths during the year preceding the census) exist for the 1870 and 1880 censuses. The schedules for these years are indexed in book format. The schedules and indexes are available at the Family History Library and at the Wyoming State Archives.

### **Territorial and State**

In addition to the federal censuses, a state census exists for 1905, which includes information on the entire household. It is available at the Wyoming State Archives. State censuses taken in 1915 and 1925 are missing.

## **CHURCH RECORDS**

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Before 1900 the largest religious groups in Wyoming were the Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Congregational, and Methodist Episcopal churches.

Most records are kept with the local congregation, although some may have been transferred to other repositories, such as a church archives, a local genealogical or historical society, or a college library.

For help in locating church records see:

*A Directory of Church and Religious Organizations in the State of Wyoming.* Cheyenne: Historical Records Survey, 1939. (FHL book 978.7 K22h; film 908039 item 5.)

*Guide to Vital Statistics Records in Wyoming: Church Archives.* Cheyenne: Historical Records Survey, 1942. (FHL book 978.7 K22hg.)

The Family History Library has very few original Wyoming church records. Many denominations have collected their records into central repositories. You can write to the following to learn where their records are located:

### **Congregational**

Congregational Library  
14 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02108  
Telephone: 617-523-0470  
Fax: 617-523-0470

### **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons)**

LDS Church Archives  
Historical Department  
50 East North Temple  
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3400  
Telephone: 801-240-2272  
Fax: 801-240-1845

### **Methodist Episcopal**

United Methodist Archives Center  
Drew University Library  
P.O. Box 127  
Madison, NJ 07940  
Telephone: 201-408-3189  
Fax: 201-408-3909

### **Presbyterian**

Presbyterian Historical Society  
United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.  
425 Lombard Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19147

The Family History Library has microfilmed many of the records in the archives of the Presbyterian Historical Society. Others are described in *Inventory of the Church Archives of Wyoming Presbyterian Churches: 1968 Arrangement with Indexes* (N.p.: Historical Records Survey, N.d.; FHL film 906119).

### **Roman Catholic**

Diocese of Cheyenne  
Box 426  
Cheyenne, WY 82003  
Telephone: 307-638-1530  
Fax: 307-637-7936

## **COURT RECORDS**

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Major Wyoming courts that kept records of genealogical value were established as follows:

**District courts** are countywide courts with jurisdiction over civil cases, including divorces, criminal cases, probate matters, and some appeals. To obtain copies of these records, contact the clerk of the district court in each county.

The Family History Library has copies of a few probate records from these courts, such as the

"attachment of real estate" certificates from Natrona County (1921 to 1969) and Crook County (1923 to 1950). From Crook County the library also has a few adoption records (1889 to 1910).

*Justice of the peace courts* are countywide courts with jurisdiction over minor civil actions and misdemeanors.

*The Supreme Court* is the statewide appellate court.

## DIRECTORIES

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Directories of heads of households have been published for major cities in Wyoming. For example, the Family History Library has directories for:

- Cheyenne  
1915, 1917, 1920, 1922, 1924, 1926, 1930, 1932, etc . . . . . FHL book 978.719/C1 E4p
- Sheridan  
1910, 1915, 1933, 1935, 1937, 1940, 1959, 1960, etc . . . . . FHL book 978.732 E4p

## EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

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Until 1811, when fur traders first opened a trail through the area, Wyoming was the domain of the American Indians. Between 1825 and 1840, about 200 mountain men bartered with the Indians at rendezvous in the region.

In the 1840s and 1850s, many thousands of emigrants traveling the Oregon Trail to California, Utah, and other western states passed through the North Platte and Sweetwater valleys and South Pass in central Wyoming. In the 1860s, as Indian troubles increased in the north, many emigrants preferred the more southerly Overland Trail through Bridger Pass. Until the railroad came, very few emigrants stayed in Wyoming.

The discovery of gold in 1867 at South Pass brought many immigrants to western Wyoming. A greater stimulus to settlement was the building of the transcontinental railroad in the late 1860s. Many Irish and Mexican laborers and Civil War veterans helped build the railway. Settlers from the Midwest followed the railroad into Wyoming, and built Cheyenne, Laramie, and other towns along the route. In the 1870s and 1880s, cattlemen from Texas drove herds into northern Wyoming.

Many Idaho Mormons came into Star Valley in the 1870s and 1880s. There were Mormon colonists in the Big Horn Basin by 1895, but the main body of Mormon settlers came there as an organized group from Utah and Idaho in 1900. A helpful source of information on these settlers in the Big Horn Basin

is Charles A. Welch, *History of the Big Horn Basin* (Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1940; FHL book 978.7 H2w; fiche 6110628).

A sizable number of Finns came to work the mines in Uinta and Sweetwater counties in the late 1880s. In 1895, a group of about 600 settlers came from Iowa and Illinois to homestead reclaimed land at a place now called Emblem, located near the Mormon colonies of the Big Horn Basin.

Today, most Wyoming residents are of northern European descent. There are small numbers of Italians in Rock Springs, Hispanic groups around Rock Springs and Cheyenne, and 2,000-3,000 Blacks, primarily in Cheyenne. Many Arapahoe, Cheyenne, and Shoshoni Indians live on the Wind River Reservation of west-central Wyoming (see the "Native Races" section of this outline).

There was no single port of entry common to overseas immigrants to Wyoming. The Family History Library and the National Archives have passenger lists or indexes for east-coast ports from about 1820 to 1940. More detailed information on immigration sources is in the *United States Research Outline*, (30972) and the *Tracing Immigrant Origins* outline, (34111).

## GAZETTEERS

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Some helpful gazetteers of Wyoming have been published, including:

Urbanek, Mae. *Wyoming Place Names*. 1974. Reprint, Missoula, Mont.: Mountain Press Publishing Co., 1988. (FHL book 978.7 E2u 1988.)

*Wyoming, Named Localities, Railroad Sidings, Discontinued Post Offices*. N.p.: 1962. (FHL film 874300 item 10.)

## GENEALOGY

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Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. These must usually be searched in person. The Family History Library has very few such collections for Wyoming. For Latter-day Saint families see the *LDS Research Outline* (34080) published by the Family History Library. Some family histories of Wyoming families are listed in the surname section of the Family History Library Catalog.

## HISTORY

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The following events affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements.



- 1834 Fort Laramie was established as a supply depot on the Oregon Trail fur trade route. It became an army post in 1849, and remained in use until 1890.
- 1840s- Emigrants went west over the Oregon Trail  
1850s through what is now central Wyoming. In 1850, more than 40,000 emigrants passed through Fort Laramie.
- 1843 Fort Bridger was established.
- 1861- The Dakota Territory was established. It  
1868 included all of present-day North and South Dakota and most of Montana and Wyoming. In 1867 all of the Wyoming portion was included in Laramie County, which was divided early in 1868 by the creation of Carter County (later renamed Sweetwater County).
- 1867- The transcontinental Union Pacific Railway  
1869 was built through southern Wyoming. The towns of Cheyenne, Laramie, Rawlins, Rock Springs, Green River, and Evanston sprang up along its route.
- 1868 Wyoming Territory was created, primarily from Dakota Territory. It included small portions from Utah and Idaho territories.
- 1876- The Arapaho and Cheyenne Indians were  
1880s moved to the Wind River Reservation. With the defeat of the Sioux soon afterward, northern Wyoming was opened to cattle grazing. The cattle boom reached its height in the 1880s.
- 1890 Wyoming became a state.
- 1895- The Carey Act of 1894 provided for the  
1910 reclamation and homesteading of desert land, and stimulated new settlements in northern Wyoming. Mormons established towns in the Big Horn Basin.

A helpful source for studying the history of Wyoming is Taft Alfred Larson, *History of Wyoming* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1965; FHL book 978.7 H2Lt).

## LAND AND PROPERTY

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### Federal Land Records

When the United States acquired Wyoming, most of the land that comprises the present state became part of the public domain. The federal government surveyed available land and began transferring much of it to private ownership through local land offices in a process called "land entry." The first land office was established at Cheyenne in 1870.

Land entry in Wyoming was either based on cash payment for the land (cash entries), or on conditions

of settlement (homesteads). Anyone who was twenty-one years old, or who was a head of household (including widows), could purchase land. Free homesteads could be obtained after 1862 by those who settled and cultivated the land for at least five years. A homestead applicant either had to be a U.S. citizen or must have filed his intention to become a citizen.

The local offices recorded each transaction in a section of land in tract books. They also created township plats, which are maps of land entries within each township.

After a settler completed the requirements for land entry, his case file was sent to the General Land Office in Washington, D.C., where a patent (first-title deed) was issued. To locate the land entry or homestead case file for your ancestor, you will need to know either the patent number or the legal description (range, township, section) of the land. The county recorder of deeds may be able to tell you the legal description of the land from county land records. You may also be able to pinpoint the exact location of a tract by searching the entries in the tract book covering the approximate area concerned.

For copies of the tract books, township plats, and patent records, contact:

Wyoming State Office of the Bureau of Land  
Management  
2515 Warren Avenue  
P.O. Box 1828  
Cheyenne, WY 82003  
Telephone: 307-775-6001  
Fax: 307-775-6082

The National Archives also has the original tract books, plats, homestead entry files, and cash entry files. The Family History Library has copies of the tract books on microfilm. The National Archives—Rocky Mountain Region (Denver) also has some of the land office records.

A guide to the land office records at the Denver branch and a history of the federal land system in Wyoming is Eileen Bolger, *Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming* (Denver: Federal Archives and Records Center, 1983; FHL book 978.7 R2b).

### County Land Records

After land was transferred from the federal government by sale or grant to private ownership, it could be sold again, inherited, lost by foreclosure of a mortgage, or distributed through a divorce. These transactions are recorded by the district courts in the form of deeds and mortgages. You can obtain copies of the records by contacting the appropriate clerk's office in each county.

Most of the county land records begin after 1869. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of important land records from about half of the counties in the state. From Laramie County, for example, the library has 75 microfilms of deeds, mortgages, indexes, railroad deeds, corporation records, bills of sale, and mining deeds. These records date from as early as 1867 to as late as 1961.

## MAPS

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The University of Wyoming in Laramie has a fine collection of maps and atlases. The Wyoming State Engineer's Office at Cheyenne has a large library of technical maps.

The Family History Library has a few maps of Wyoming. These show trails, roads, forts, migration routes, and other features. Atlases that describe Wyoming's progression from Indian lands through various territorial designations are on FHL film 002083.

## MILITARY RECORDS

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The *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) provides more information on federal military records and search strategies.

Many of the federal military records you'll want to use are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more information about the federal records. For Wyoming the following sources are also very helpful.

### Civil War (1861-1865)

The Family History Library and the National Archives have an index to some soldiers from Nebraska Territory (FHL films 821905-6). A special census was taken in 1890 of Union veterans of the Civil War (FHL film 338276). An index to the returns for Wyoming has been published (FHL book 978.7 X22j 1890).

### Indian Wars

Enlistment registers are available for soldiers who served in the regular army from 1798 to 1914. Many of these soldiers served in the western states, including Wyoming, during the Indian wars. The enlistment registers provide the soldiers' rank, unit, commanders, physical description, occupation, and birthplace. The records are arranged by year and by the first letter of the surname (FHL films 350307—).

An index is available for soldiers who applied for pensions between 1892-1926, as a result of service in the Indian Wars which were fought between 1817 and 1898 (FHL films 821610-21). The pension records are only available at the National Archives.

Historical accounts of the forts and posts in Wyoming are in Robert A. Murray, *Military Posts of Wyoming* (Ft. Collins: Old Army Press, 1974; FHL book 978.7 H2m).

### Spanish-American War (1898)

A published roster of soldiers is in volume one of Ichabod S. Bartlett, ed., *History of Wyoming*, 3 vols. (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1918; FHL book 978.7 H2b; film 1000826 items 2-4).

### World War I (1917-1918)

A published roster of Wyoming soldiers is in volume three of W.M. Haulsee, et al., *Soldiers of the Great War*, 3 vols. (Washington, D.C.: Soldiers Record Publishing Association, 1920; FHL book 973 M23s; fiche 6051244). The Wyoming State Archives has files for men killed during the war.

World War I draft registration cards for men age 18 to 45 may list address, birth date, birthplace, race, nationality, citizenship, and next of kin. Not all registrants served in the war. For registration cards for Wyoming, see:

United States. Selective Service System. *Wyoming, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M1509. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1987-1988. (On FHL films beginning with 1993029).

To find an individual's draft card, it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged alphabetically by county, within the county by draft board, and then alphabetically by surname within each draft board.

Most counties had only one board; large cities had several. A map showing the boundaries of individual draft boards is available for most large cities. Finding an ancestor's street address in a city directory will help you in using the draft board map. There is an alphabetical list of cities that are on the map. For a copy of this map see:

United States. Selective Service System. *List of World War One Draft Board Maps*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives. (FHL film 1498803.)

### Additional Military Records

Modern discharge records are kept by each county. The Family History Library has copies of these records from a few counties. The records include the individual's date and place of birth, induction and discharge dates, and address after discharge.

The Wyoming State Archives has records of the Wyoming National Guard.



## NATIVE RACES

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The library has copies of the Wind River Agency files for the years 1881 to 1953. These are detailed records kept by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The original records are at the National Archives—Rocky Mountain Region (Denver). Other American Indian records are listed in the subject section of the Family History Library Catalog under the names of the tribes, such as SHOSHONI INDIANS.

## NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

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Naturalization records have generally been filed with the clerk of the district court in each county courthouse. You can obtain copies of declarations, petitions, oaths, and orders by contacting the clerk's office. The Family History Library does not have copies of these records for Wyoming.

For naturalization records after September 1906, contact the National Archives—Rocky Mountain Region (Denver) or the local office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

## NEWSPAPERS

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The Family History Library has not acquired copies of Wyoming newspapers. The library has copies of a few publications that contain abstracts of vital information printed in newspapers. Genealogical and historical periodicals also publish some obituaries and other extracts from early newspapers.

The Wyoming State Archives, the Wyoming State Library, and other major libraries in Wyoming have helpful collections of newspapers. The following guides can help you locate Wyoming newspapers:

“Guide to Wyoming Frontier Newspapers,” *Annals of Wyoming*, Vols. 33-35 (1961-1963). Cheyenne: Wyoming State Archives, 1923-. (FHL book 978.7 B2aw vols. 33-35.)

Homsher, Lola. *Guide to Wyoming Newspapers, 1867-1967*, Cheyenne: Wyoming State Library, 1971. (FHL book 978.7 B3h; film 873822 item 2.)

## PERIODICALS

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Genealogical and historical periodicals helpful for Wyoming research are:

*Fremont County Nostalgia News*. 1980-. Published by the Fremont County Genealogical Society, c/o Riverton Branch Library, 1330 West Park, Riverton, WY 82501. (FHL book 978.763 D25k; fiche 6075734-38, Vols. 1-10.)

*Annals of Wyoming*. 1923-. Published by the Wyoming State Archives.

*Bits and Pieces*. 1965-. Published by M. E. Brown, Newcastle, WY. (FHL book 978.7 B2aw.)

## PROBATE

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Before statehood, probate records were kept by the territorial probate court. After 1890, these records were transferred to the clerk of the district court in each county where copies can be obtained by contacting the clerk. The Family History Library has very few copies of Wyoming probate records.

Wyoming probate records include wills, inheritance tax records, oaths and bonds, petitions, letters testamentaries, letters of administration, final accounts, inventories, bills of sale, probate journals, claims against estates, and guardianship annual reports.

## VITAL RECORDS

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### State Records of Births and Deaths

Statewide registration of births and deaths in Wyoming began in July 1909, and was generally complied with by 1922. Individuals who were born prior to 1909, or who for some reason did not have a birth certificate, could apply for a delayed birth certificate. The Wyoming Vital Records Services began keeping delayed birth certificates in the 1920s.

For copies of state birth and death records write to:

Vital Records Services  
Hathaway Building  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
Telephone: 307-777-7591  
Fax: 307-635-4103

The current fees for obtaining copies of the state's records are listed in *Where to Write for Vital Records: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces* (Hyattsville, Md.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March 1993; FHL book 973 V24wv). Copies of this booklet are at the Family History Library and at many Family History Centers. You can also write to the Vital Records Services for current information.

Copies of the birth records can only be released to those named on the certificate unless you can provide proof of the person's death. You will also need to state your relationship to the individual and your purpose for obtaining the record.

The Family History Library has not acquired copies of the state birth and death records.

## County Records of Births and Deaths

A few Wyoming counties kept records of births and deaths a few years prior to state registration. For information about pre-1909 birth and death records, write to the local county clerk. The records in the county courthouses are open to the public, but the Family History Library has not acquired copies of these records. The library has a few records, such as birth registers and coroner's reports, that have been transcribed and published. The county clerk does not usually keep copies of birth and death records filed after July 1909.

## State Records of Marriages

Statewide registration of marriages began in May 1941. For information about marriage records kept after that date, write to the Vital Records Services (see address on page 7). Copies of the records can be released only to the individuals named on the certificate, unless you provide proof of death. The Family History Library does not have copies of these records.

## County Records of Marriages

Many counties began recording marriages soon after the county was organized. Some county records begin as early as the 1860s, such as the Albany County marriage records that begin in 1869. The office of the county clerk for each county maintains the county marriage records from the earliest dates to the present. Most counties have indexed their marriage records, and the files are open to the public. Beginning in 1941, county clerks have sent duplicate copies of marriage records to the Vital Records Services.

The Family History Library has acquired copies of the marriage records for about half of the Wyoming counties from the Wyoming State Archives. These copies generally date from the earliest entries to about 1930. For example, the library has Sheridan County marriage records (1888 to 1925) and marriage licenses (1888 to 1916).

The Miscellaneous Marriage Records Index (FHL films 820155 item 2 to 820173) is an index of marriage records for several Utah and Idaho counties, and includes names from Lincoln County, Wyoming. This incomplete but helpful index generally includes information on marriages that took place as late as the 1940s.

## Divorce Records

Wyoming counties often began recording divorces soon after the county was organized. Divorce proceedings are usually kept by the local clerk of the district court. This office has divorce records from the earliest entries to the present. Although the divorce

records are interfiled with other civil court records, most counties have indexes to their divorce records.

Statewide registration of divorces began in May 1941. After that date, the clerk of the district court sent duplicates or abstracts of the local divorce records to the Vital Records Services (see address on page 7).

The Family History Library has not acquired copies of Wyoming divorce records from the state office or from the local district courts.

## FOR FURTHER READING

For a brief description of the history and records of Wyoming see:

Joyce V. H. Spiros. *Genealogical Guide to Wyoming*. Gallup, N. Mex.: Verlone Pub., 1982. (FHL book 978.7 D27sp; film 1421885 item 13; fiche 6051442.)

Eichholz, Alice, ed. *Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*. Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992. (FHL book 973 D27rb 1992; computer number 594021.) Contains bibliographies and background information on history and ethnic groups. Also contains maps and tables showing when each county was created.

## COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

Publications Coordination  
Family History Library  
35 N. West Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3400  
USA

We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.

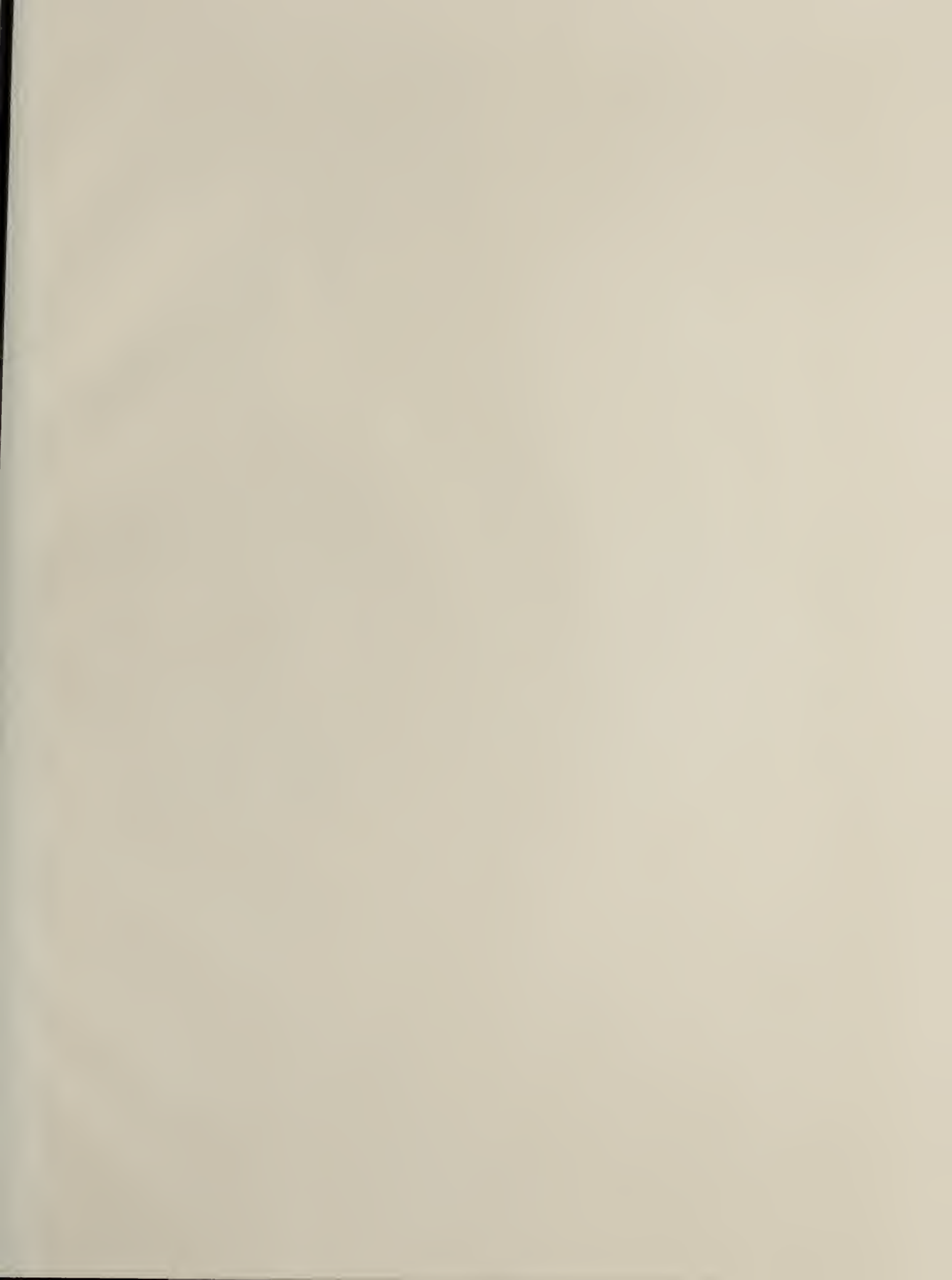
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USA  
Fax: 801-240-2494

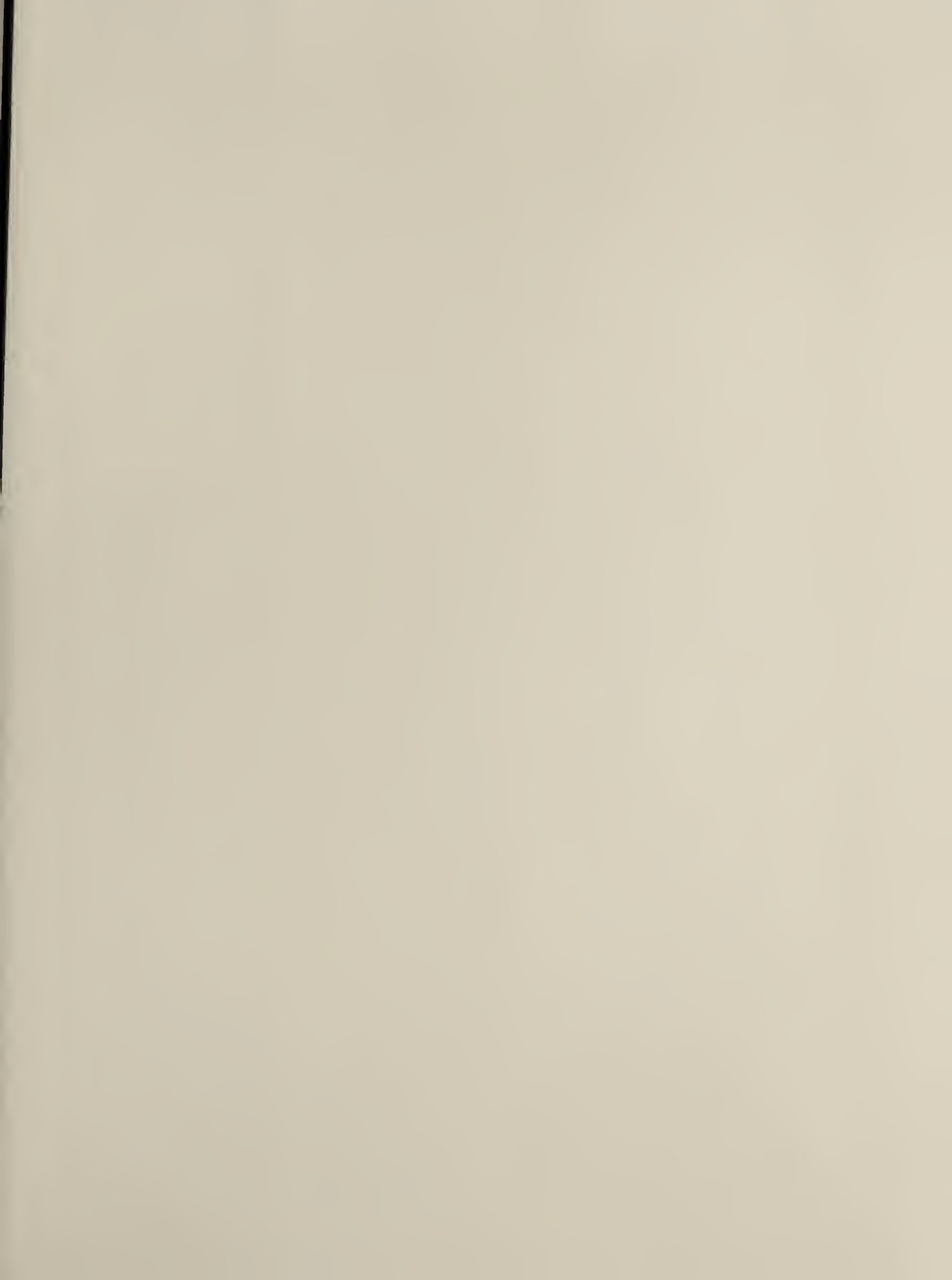
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